

Compilation of Questions and Answers from LAR-IAC Proposers' Conference and Written Inquiries

The following Questions and Answers were compiled from the LAR-IAC Proposers' Conference and written inquiries that followed. Below is a compilation of our interpretation of the Questions along with our Answers to such questions.

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A. Summary of Questions and Responses from Proposers' Conference held on 07/07/2005.

Q1: Why did the RFP specify the brand, make and model of LiDAR systems?

A1: We will allow the use of a "technical equivalent" of the specified brand and model of LiDAR systems for developing Digital Terrain Datasets.

Q2: Would you identify, in advance, what you consider as equivalent equipment?

A2: No. Proposers are responsible to prepare such equipment (sensors) which will provide imagery products as specified in the Statement of Work (using all mapping standards as setup in the RFP).

Q3: Is tide an issue for LiDAR acquisition?

A3: We recommend providing LiDAR data for low tide.

Q4: Will the County provide a FGDC metadata template?

A4: Yes. The County will provide a simplified version of the FGDC metadata template. This template issue will be addressed with the selected provider.

Q5: Regarding survey control – LiDAR and digital camera technology – can we look at section 2.4 and 2.7.2 in the RFP as one?

A5: We don't believe that the two items are mutually exclusive. Section 2.4 deals with the ground control needed for the project. In this section we are looking for the methodology for the establishment of these points and by such establishment an estimate of their accuracy. Section 2.7.2 is dealing with the collection of LiDAR data and the means of quality assurance procedures to insure the integrity of the data. Control points mentioned in 2.4 would be used to control and check data collected in Section 2.7.2, but points collected by LiDAR in Section 2.7.2 would not be used to establish the aforementioned control points.

Q6: Regarding the point spacing of the LiDAR data sets – Is the requested spacing an "overkill" solution for 2' contours?

A6: We do not believe the requested spacing is "overkill" specifically since we requested breaklines.

Q7: Will ASCII deliverable be the final format?

A7: This issue is addressed in the Statement of Work under Section 3.2.

Q8: Are detailed flight plans required to be part of the proposal?

A8: No. We only need a basic flight plan. A detailed flight plan will be addressed with the selected provider.

Q9: Will we be receiving an electronic copy of existing county survey benchmarks, for the preparation of our proposals?

A9: No. We will not provide any county survey benchmarks for the preparation of the proposals. Please be aware that all survey control has to be tied directly to NGS (National Geodetic Survey) data.

Q10: You specify 70% overlap in rural project areas with 80% overlap in urban, once again, if we think we have the technology and capability to do less of an overlap and be able to provide

you with the same accuracy and everything else that you are requesting. Are you willing to consider an alternative solution?

A10: Again, we stress all requested specifications for ortho imagery (including specified standards) are in RFP. We are willing to consider an alternative solution (hopefully at lower cost) as long as we receive imagery products in compliance with the RFP specifications.

Q11: Section 2.0 entitled Minimum Mandatory Requirements states in Requirement 2 that Proposer must have a Contract Manager with three (3) years of experience. However, Appendix B of the Statement of Work, Section 4.2 states that the Project Manager must have five (5) years of experience. Two questions: Is there a difference between Contract Manager and Project Manager and secondarily, if they are the same, what is year of experience required, three (3) or five (5)?

A11: Contract Manager oversees legal issues, invoicing, etc. Three (3) years is sufficient for this position. Project Manager is technically oriented, and oversees all technical issues related to the project and is also responsible for the final Quality Control (QC). Project Manager has to have five (5) years of technical experience at a similar size to the County's project.

Q12: How many references from similar projects should be provided to the County?

A12: We requested to provide five references from similar size projects in the last five (5) years.

Q13: How does the County assess the horizontal component of DEM? What methodology will be used?

A13: In order to determine that the vertical element is accurate the horizontal element must be placed correctly. Vertical errors in the DEM may be partially attributable to horizontal error. Therefore, to measure the vertical error within the DEM with any degree of confidence, the horizontal component (xy) of the DEM must be accurately known. It should be noted that a direct test of the accuracy of the elevation data will be performed by conducting field measurements. By field surveying points of known xy coordinates, a direct comparison will be made between actual and estimated elevations.

For additional information see:

ASPRS Guidelines

Vertical Accuracy Reporting for LiDAR Data

Version 1.0

Drafted May 15, 2004

Released May 24, 2004

Ownership ASPRS LiDAR Committee (PAD)

Q14: With regards to licensing of data, Section 6 of the Statement of Work discusses potential licensing. Is it the County's desire to sell data or is it the private contractor's job to sell data?

A14: The Consortium will require full unlimited and perpetual licenses for current and future members of the Consortium. The Consortium will cover all public sector entities including city, county, state and federal agencies plus all special districts (for example, water districts, school districts, sanitation districts and air pollution control districts). The providers of requested imagery will have the right to license the imagery products to the private sector (developers, real estate business, insurance, transportation, etc.). We believe that such an option will have a positive impact on the price which the Consortium will pay for its participants.

Q15: Can you provide us with a list of all Consortium members to all participants of this Proposers' Conference?

A15: No. Basically the Consortium will include the County of Los Angeles, cities within the County of Los Angeles and other state and federal government agencies within the County of Los Angeles. Los Angeles County has 88 separate incorporated cities within its geographical boundaries that have city counsels and run their own business within their respective city boundaries. Additionally, within the geographic boundaries of Los Angeles County there are many special districts.

Q16: Again, are special districts part of the Consortium?

A16: They may not be part now, but certainly they will be future members of the Consortium. This also goes for federal agencies which are not current part of the Consortium but could become future participants.

Q17: Regarding requested density of points/sq. meter for LiDAR acquisition. Are you aware that this request could be a major impact on the cost of the acquisition?

A17: We established that the minimum DTM spacing shall be 5 foot or less. Approximately one point per sq. meter is to be used for the development of the final DTM. The actual number of raw points is estimated to be 3 to 4 times higher.

Q18: Can we pick our own flying heights [for LiDAR acquisition]?

A18: No. Please see the specifications in the RFP under section 2.7.

Q19: Will you be able to share information about the 22+ participants regarding their partners and their partners' use of the data?

A19: No. We do not collect data from our participating entities or their partners. The Consortium's main purpose is for the acquisition and distribution of the imagery products.

Q20: Will there be a change of requested volume of square miles for the acquisition of aerial imagery products?

A20: No.

Q21: Has the County considered a QA/QC process for this project?

A21: The County will hire an independent photogrammetric firm which will assist County staff provide all necessary QA/QC operations for the entire project.

Q22: Do small businesses get preferential treatment in the evaluation criteria?

A22: Qualified local businesses will receive a preference as provided for under Section 2.204 of the County Code.

Q23: California sales tax has not been discussed. Does it apply?

A23: Los Angeles County prefers electronic delivery of the imagery data products, which is not subject to taxation. If the County requires delivery on a tangible medium, then County will be responsible for all applicable taxes. In your price proposal, please itemize the tax amount for each taxable item, if tax were to be assessed. The agreement will be modified to reflect the County position. The proposals will be evaluated based on the net (without tax) proposed price.

B. Summary of Questions and Responses from e-mail submitted by Sanborn on 07/11/2005.

Q1: The instructions on Exhibit 12 (Prospective Contractor List of Contracts) are as follows: “List of all public entities for which the Contractor has provided service within the last three (3) years.” However the instructions for this exhibit in Section 2.7.4 of the RFP state that “The listing must include all County contracts for the last three (3) years.” Please clarify if we need to list all contracts with all public entities or just contracts with Los Angeles County.

A1: All Public entities should be listed. Also, it has been identified that this list should include the last five (5) years, rather than three (3).

Q2: What information should be provided on Exhibit 1, Proposal Sheet?

A2: Exhibit 1 – Required Forms is to be used for County internal purposes. Please disregard this exhibit and follow the proposal format outlined in Section 2.7 of the RFP.

Q3: Where Should Exhibit 13 (Jury Service Program Certificate) should be placed within the proposal?

A3: This required form should be included in the forms section of the proposal (as outlined in the Section 2.7 of the RFP) after Exhibit 12. This Exhibit should be included, but was inadvertently left out of the forms described in Section 2.7.8 of the RFP (as were Exhibits 11 and 12; both of these exhibits should be included in the proposal).

Q4: Are proposers required to complete and submit Exhibits 14-18 from Appendix D with their proposals? No instructions pertaining to these exhibits are provided.

A4: No. These exhibits are not applicable.

C. Summary of Questions and Responses from e-mail submitted by Sanborn on 07/12/2005.

Q1: Section 2.7 of the RFP states that a section called "Living Wage Compliance (Section E) (if applicable)" should be included in proposals. However, no instructions are provided for this section. Is this a required section, and if so, what should it contain?

A1: No. This Section is not applicable, nor are exhibits 14 to 18.

Q2: In the RFP it mentions that areas with buildings taller than 4 stories are to be flown with 80% end lap and 30% side lap, given the fact that Los Angeles County has so many "business parks" and buildings that exceed 4 stories, can the County define in some way these areas that need to be flown at 80/30 (e.g. square miles, shape file indicating the whereabouts) for flight planning purposes?

A2: Yes. The county will provide a shape file with delineation of areas which should be flown with 80% end lap and 30% side lap

Q3: What does the County have in terms of locating the existing control network that can be provided to the Contractor (e.g. shape files, sketches, Auto CAD files)?

A3: All control is to be tied directly to NGS (National Geodetic Survey) data of the proper order, epoch, and vertical datum. This is to insure that we have one uniform control network that is County wide. The county is made up of various agencies with varying systems, orders, and classes of vertical and horizontal control. Tying all of our survey control to the NGS network ensures uniformity and accuracy throughout the project area.

Part of the mission of the NGS, is to provide the public with survey control information, such as Latitude, Longitude, Height and Gravity Data. This is done for publishable stations in the form of DATASHEETS. A Datasheet is sometimes referred to as DSDATA. It is an ASCII text file which contains data for a survey control station maintained by NGS. For horizontal control stations, Datasheets, show precise LATITUDE and LONGITUDE, Geoid Ht, State Plane Coordinates, epoch date, order and class of station. Datasheets for vertical control stations (Bench Marks) show precise Orthometric Heights, vertical Datum, date of adjustment, as well as order and class. All Datasheets give a detailed description of how to reach the station, as well as a description of the monument itself.

Datasheets are easily accessible on the web at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/> and can be obtained using a number of interactive tools: Radial Search (provide center coordinates and radius in miles), Rectangular Search (provide min/max coordinates), Map Search (interactive map search), USGS Quad , or by County.

Q4: Do the cadastral monuments meet the horizontal and vertical requirements referenced in the RFP?

A4: No. Only NGS Monuments are to be used for primary control. See Above.

Q5: What is the intended use of the cadastral monuments with relation to this project (are you looking for them to be tied into...)?

A5: We want the cadastral monuments tied to, and controlled by NGS monuments. By bringing down this control to these existing cadastral monuments we will be able to use these stations for quality control and accuracy checks. Also, they will be able to use these

monuments for future projects that will benefit from a uniform, accurate, countywide control network, being part of the national recognized network.

Q6: Can you please define “durable” when speaking of cadastral monuments (e.g. semi-permanent)?

A6: A "durable" monument would be one that can withstand the elements over time. These would include Iron Pipe with plug, Rebar with survey cap, Spike in Lead in concrete, and Spike and Washer in asphalt. "Non-durable" monuments would include Wood Stakes, Chisel Cross, Nails, and Paint Marks.

D. Summary of Questions and Responses from e-mail submitted by Bohannon Huston Inc. on 07/12/2005

Q1: Does the proposal have a page limit? If so, are there page requirements for specific sections?

A1: No.

Q2: What is to be included on the “Proposal Sheet” referenced as Required Forms – Exhibit 1?

A2: Exhibit 1 – Required Forms is to be used for County internal purposes. Please disregard this exhibit and follow the proposal format outlined in Section 2.7 of the RFP.

Q3: Is the cost proposal to be included with the proposal, or submitted separately?

A3: Yes.

Q4: How are we to complete Required Forms - Exhibit 18 – *Living Wage Program Model Contractor Staffing Plan*? Is there a form to be used?

A4: You do not have to. This form is not applicable for this project.

Q5: If a firm has any exceptions to the Terms and Condition of the Sample Agreement, where should they be stated in the proposal?

A5: Please see Section 2.7 of the RFP which describes where exceptions should be placed in the proposal (Section F).

Q6: If the priming firm is located in a state other than California, must it have Statement of Foreign Corporation papers filed with the California Secretary of State before submitting this proposal? Before negotiating a contract under this proposal?

A6: Please consult this issue with your legal counsel. The County does not have any such requirement.

Q7: Do you require the proposals in both digital and hard copy format? Or should we only send the proposal in hard copy. Secondly, what do you mean when you say, “data and sample imagery can be submitted with only one copy.” Should we only submit only one copy or can we submit copies of sample imagery with all eight proposals?

A7: Eight (8) copies plus one set of hard copy samples, and one set of media (DVD for example) with data.